June 29, 2004 Contact: Reneé Daggerhart
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South Carolina Energy Office Funds Project to Reduce Air Pollution from Diesel Trucks

(Columbia, SC) -- A $1.5 million grant from the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), will help reduce air pollution from diesel trucks along the Interstate 85 corridor in South Carolina and two neighboring states. The grant, awarded to the South Carolina Energy Office will fund almost half of the $3.5 million cost for installing 150 electrified parking spaces at truck stops in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia. These electrified spaces will provide truckers access to heat, air conditioning, the Internet, and telecommunications while allowing truckers to eliminate the need for idling by shutting off their diesel engines.

The remaining cost for installing the electrified parking spaces will be provided by Knoxville, Tennessee's IdleAire Technologies Corporation, which produces the Advanced Travel Center Electrification system. Other project participants include the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, North Carolina Division of Air Quality, and the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority.

In South Carolina, 50 electrified parking spaces will be installed at Anderson Auto Truck Plaza at Exit 27 on I-85. Other spaces will be installed at Petro Stopping Center at Exit 157 on Interstate 85/40 in Mebane, North Carolina, and Pilot Travel Center #422 at Exit 41 on I-85 in Newnan, Georgia.

"Providing these electrified parking spaces at truck stops will help conserve energy and prevent air pollution," said John Clark, Director of the South Carolina Energy Office. "Counties along the corridor in all three states are areas of concern for federal air quality limits. IdleAire's system allows any truck on the road to stop idling immediately, with no retrofits beyond a $10 window adapter, so each unit will provide services for thousands of trucks per year at each location. We expect each IdleAire location will remove over 1,600 metric tons of emissions annually, including 33 tons of nitrogen oxides and a ton of particulate matter. Fuel saved at the three locations is expected to be nearly 2.4 million gallons annually."

In South Carolina, there are over 9,300 truck parking spaces at both public and private locations. At least 11 million gallons of fuel are wasted each year and almost 2,100 tons of nitrogen oxides and particulate matter are needlessly emitted into the air. The issue of long-duration idling has become even more significant because of new federal safety regulations that require truckers to rest 10 hours for every 11 hours that they drive.

IdleAire's patented, award-winning system allows professional drivers to access electrical shore power, filtered central heat and air conditioning, and a range of communications and entertainment services in the truck cab without idling their engines during mandated daily rest breaks. The IdleAire system improves air quality and allows drivers to rest without the noise, vibration and fumes of idling truck engines. The company installs, operates and maintains the system at each location with employees on site and shares revenue with the travel centers. Fleets pay the $1.25 per hour charge for their drivers to use the system because of the savings in fuel, maintenance and engine wear.

"This is the first grant for a multi-state corridor Advanced Travel Center Electrification project in the country. It marks the beginning of our plans to expand our presence and becomes a key component in our rapid deployment this year," said IdleAire Chief Operating Officer David Everhart. IdleAire's southeast locations include Knoxville, Tennessee, Atlanta, Georgia, West Memphis, Arkansas, and Birmingham, Alabama. Truck drivers have used the system nearly 1.5 million hours to date. IdleAire's technology won the 2003 R&D 100 Award as one of the most technologically significant products of the year, and the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Air Excellence Award in 2004.

More information about the project can be found at the web sites for the South Carolina Energy Office (www.energy.sc.gov), NASEO (www.naseo.org) and IdleAire (www.idleaire.com).